



## **Strengthening LA County Library with your support**

**August, 2021**

Dear Library Champion,

Happy August!

I hope you're enjoying your summer – staying cool and finding safe and fun adventures.

Whether you're interested in armchair travel ([sign up here](#) for recommended reads with a NextReads newsletter), eager to enjoy local attractions (for free) with your Library card through [Discover & Go](#), or ready to explore a different place, your Library has you covered.

You're part of making these good things happen!

Thank you for supporting (and perhaps participating in) this year's [Spring & Summer Discovery Program](#).

The program just concluded – three months of reading and Library activities, with monthly and grand prizes for participants. Success!

It was a great way to keep people of all ages connected and exploring, an antidote to the isolation and tumult of this past year plus.

As schools reopen and we ride ongoing uncertainty, your support is helping your Library continue to creatively and economically meet our community's evolving needs. Thank you!

Read on...here's a taste of this month's enews stories:

- Your Library just unveiled big news – **it's going fine-free!** We dig into the details of this move to eliminate barriers and encourage children, teens, and adults to become lifelong learners with Library resources. Spoiler alert: it's a social and economic win.
- In this month's [My Library Story](#), Alan Kumamoto takes you to a celebration of the newly renovated Masao W. Satow Library in Gardena – and looks back to the 1960s when he worked with Mas, the library's namesake, and at the time, National Director of the Japanese American Citizens League.
- And wrapping up, Library Foundation volunteer Paul Loesch examines digital resources that will fuel your journey as a lifelong learner.

I hope you've enjoyed [Nature Exploration](#) programming, and maybe even checked out a [Nature Exploration Bag](#) (they're available year-round at five libraries).

Be sure to catch the final online program on August 24th from 3-4 pm - *Take a Tour of LA County's Natural Parks* ([register here](#)). A great intro to some natural gems in our community backyard.

Edison International and generous Library Foundation donors like you have made *Nature Exploration* possible. Thank you!

[I love to hear from you](#) - what you're reading, where you're exploring, why you give for your Library.

Wishing you joy as we head into fall.

Thank you,

ANDREA

Andrea Carroll  
Executive Director

P.S. Your gift today will make a difference. Thank you!

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## **My Library Story: Alan Kumamoto on the Masao W. Satow Library open house, plus remembering Mas Satow**

On the morning of July 29, 2021, I accompanied my wife, Joanne, a member of the LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors, to the ribbon cutting and open house for the [Masao W. Satow Library](#) in Gardena, one of 86 libraries in the LA County Library system.



Image: LA County Library/Monica Almeida

I was there to see how the renovated space looked and because I worked as the National Youth Director (1965-1970) when Mas was National Director of the [Japanese American Citizens League](#), the

largest and oldest Asian American Civil Rights organization in the country.

Mas and I had some things in common - youth programming and bowling.

Even though Mas was born in Northern California, he spent his schooling in Southern California (Polytechnic HS and UCLA).

He began his earlier career working as general secretary for the Japanese division of the YMCAs (I volunteered at the Y and later worked for the National Board of YMCAs) and he also worked with youth groups at the Japanese Union Church.

This early work with youth was our common bond and he frequently supported and encouraged the youth activities and services.

Our second connection: he was an accomplished bowler (I did some bowling, but not at his level).

Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell hosted the open house with the Library. The event featured outdoor activities for kids and a walk-through of the refurbished space.

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Image: LA County Library/Monica Almeida

*Above, from left to right: Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Alan Kumamoto, and Joanne Kumamoto enjoy the newly remodeled Masao W. Satow Library. Learn about and see historical images of the library's hometown of Gardena. Check out the Library's digital [Community History](#) resource.*

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Upgrades to the library, made possible with support from the 2nd Supervisorial District Capital Fund, include: new furniture, increased seating capacity, a dedicated teen area, two self-checkout machines, a new HVAC unit, new exterior paint and drought-tolerant landscaping.

[Click here](#) to enjoy images from the reopening celebration at Masao W. Satow Library.

Better yet, visit the library in person!

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# What's your Library Story?

[Email us!](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)

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## **Big news: Your Library is going fine-free**

Beginning Wednesday, September 1, 2021, your LA County Library is going fine-free – eliminating fines and fees for all overdue library books and materials!

This move, a motion authored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, and approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors on August 10th, will increase access and eliminate barriers to Library resources and services.

If your initial response is to question the logic, don't worry – it's a financial and social win.

Historically, across the nation, customers don't pay their fines. Instead, they stop using their library.

Studies show that fees can have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable individuals, especially youth, non-citizens, and people of color – individuals for whom the Library can be a lifeline.

Often, it's low-income families, for whom fines can be an economic hardship. Not paying them leads to a blocked library card, embarrassment, and avoiding the library...feeding a cycle of economic hardship.



Image: LA

County Library/Monica Almeida. Artwork: Golden State Mutual Art Collection/Bobo Tribe Wood Mask at

Masao W. Satow Library

***Thanks to your support, your Library provides opportunities for success for everyone - strengthening individuals and your community.*** Resources and materials reflect 21st century needs and desires, and are free to you with your Library card. Going fine-free will encourage people to use Library resources and to become lifelong learners.

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Reports from major library systems across the United States with a fine-free model (including those in Chicago and San Francisco, for example) show that benefits outweigh costs.

For example:

- Library customers returned more overdue and missing library books and materials when the system went fine-free – up to a 200% increase in some cases.

- Libraries saved: staffing costs to collect fees had exceeded the amount of fees collected (that's the case with LA County Library).
- Library user satisfaction increased – this leads to continuing library use and encouraging lifelong learning.

Over the past five years, your LA County Library, working with the Board of Supervisors, has thoughtfully investigated a fine-free model.

They've built in safeguards, and fines will still apply to lost and damaged materials. The Library will post more details soon on its website.

Going fine-free is a momentous step. It's fundamental to the Library's purpose: providing learning experiences, making connections, sparking curiosity, and building skills for all LA County residents - to better serve society's most vulnerable communities.

Thank you for supporting your Library, for being part of a movement to strengthen your community today and for generations to come.

Curious? Learn more about the power of a fine-free library:

[Our Town: Why Some Libraries are Ending Fines](#) by Deborah Fallows in *The Atlantic*

[Urban Libraries Fine Free Map](#)

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## **Virtual Toolbox: Lifelong Learning with Your Library**

Library Foundation volunteer Paul Loesch writes:

No resource in the world supports lifelong learning better than the public library.

Your LA County Library offers learners materials and programs broad in range and rich in content – targeting virtually every kind of learning need and desire.

Your Library presents in-person programs, circulates physical materials (including books, magazines, DVDs and other media), and provides numerous e-resources.

You also have free access to dedicated knowledge experts – your local librarian, as well as a team of system-wide reference librarians – who offer personalized guidance in person, over the phone, and via email and chat.

This wealth of content and format means that you, as a library card holder, have the most current thinking, commentary, and research – in numerous fields – at your fingertips.

Here are some treasures your Library makes available to you free with your LA County Library Card:

- Digital editions of thousands of articles and well-known periodicals. You can find them by going to the [Library's home page](#). On the menu bar, select “Digital Library,” then [Digital Magazines](#). Choose [OverDrive Magazines](#) or [PressReader](#) for access to thousands of titles.

Available magazines are as diverse as the readers who want them, and many editions are in languages other than English.

Some well-known magazines available to you include: *Money*, *Popular Science*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Economist*, *New York Review of Books*, and many others.

Why buy a subscription when you can easily access current and past issues (for free), available on all your mobile devices?

- Want a more formal program of learning? Your Library offers numerous classes, seminars, and even full courses of study. Navigate the website home page to “Resources” and under “Programs,” find: [Earn Your High School Diploma](#), Tools for Job Seekers, [Business Resources](#), and other essential subject areas.

For example, entrepreneurs can get help every step of the way through Library partner [SCORE](#), a non-profit dedicated to helping people start and sustain a small business.

[Tools for Job Seekers](#) assists individuals with all aspects of the job-seeking process – from researching various career fields, to crafting a resume, to preparing for a job interview – major challenges for many people.

Click on [Brainfuse](#). You can even connect live to a job coach for personalized help with finding a new job or developing career skills.

Your Library's resources are there to help.

- [Gale Courses](#), [LinkedIn Learning](#), and [Universal Class](#) offer formal classes on a vast array of topics.
- In addition to movies and TV shows, [Kanopy](#) provides 1,706 films and lessons that address a multitude of lifelong learning needs and interests, including courses to help individuals develop business skills.

One of these, [Critical Business Skills for Success](#), is a series of videos. The *Value of Great Leadership* episode is especially interesting – focusing on leadership beyond that of heads of organizations, and examining how each of us practices a range of leadership skills as we influence other people in our daily lives and roles at work, at any level.

- [hoopla](#) also provides a rich array of structured lessons and less formal ways to learn.

Interested in learning new or brushing up on household skills like cooking, woodworking, or home repairs? Want to learn a second language?

hoopla gives you the how-to on these, and many other areas – as single lessons and full courses. Several of the “Great Courses” are also available here.

Your LA County Library's lifelong learning resources make a fuller, richer life available to all of us.

Enjoy!

What are you learning through your Library?

[Let us know!](#)

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**You make a difference.  
Thank you!**

**DONATE**



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### **Our Contact Information**

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